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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Ecker, Griffey, Sampath, Hofstadler, McNeil, Crooke,

Serial No.: 09/891,793

Group Art Unit: 1637

Filed: 6/26/2001

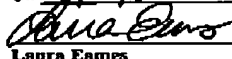
Examiner: Fredman, Jeffrey Norman

Title: **METHODS FOR PROVIDING BACTERIAL BIOAGENT  
CHARACTERIZING INFORMATION**RECEIVED  
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22313-1450.

On

8/11/2006



Laura Eames

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 03/16/2006**

In response to the Office Action mailed March 16, 2006, and pursuant to the enclosed request  
for extension of time to reply, please accept the following:

- ☒ Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.
- ☒ Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which  
begins on page 4 of this paper.
- ☒ Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.